

Wishram School District 94
Board Minutes
05/27/2025

BOARD MEETING

School Board Directors attendance: School District employees in attendance:

Mary Barnhart (Betsy) Aireann Duke Jeff Augustus	Tye Churchwell Sarah Hathaway Brent Cameron Student Rep: Sam Bernier
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- Call to Order and Welcome Guests 5:16
- Pledge of Allegiance - M.Barnhart
- Questions/comments from audience -none
- Roll Call -

J.Augustus motioned to excuse Clyde Rosa and Christina Patten-Rowan due to work schedule conflict.

A.Duke seconded the motion.

Motion carried

- CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA - none

STAFF REPORT

Superintendent Report

- ☐ **Call Home Incentive:** Miss McNeely won the April Call Home incentive and received a \$100 prize for her outstanding effort in making positive parent calls.
- ☐ **Superintendent Conference:** Attended the final session of the Superintendent Academy. Despite initial hesitation, the conference was valuable, with opportunities to network with superintendents statewide.
- ☐ **Community Council Participation:** Participated in a Community Council meeting, as requested by the group.
- ☐ **ESD 112 Service Contracts:** Service contract costs are fluctuating. Some will increase, while others may decrease. ESD 112 is working to reallocate funds to minimize the impact on districts.
- ☐ **Proposed Life Skills Program:** ESD 112 is exploring the launch of a Life Skills program in the Gorge, potentially hosted at Klickitat's facility. The class would serve students who struggle in traditional classrooms by teaching basic survival and financial skills. More information will follow.
- ☐ **AmeriCorps Positions:** No applicants yet for two key AmeriCorps positions. Please share the opportunity with potential candidates.
- ☐ **Color Printer:** The new commercial-grade color printer has arrived. Final paperwork will be submitted to the board for approval.
- ☐ **FP252 Clean Air Grant:** Awarded \$1.598 million (of the \$1.6M requested) to replace HVAC systems in the gym and CTE building and to upgrade kitchen ventilation.
- ☐ **Playground Equipment:** Staff selected Great Western Recreation Option 3 as the preferred playground upgrade. Details are included in the board packet for review.

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- ☐ **Preschool Programming:** Mid-Columbia Children's Council is allowing some students to attend in Goldendale, but transportation remains a challenge due to contract constraints. The Council does not plan to apply for Wishram funding. Discussions with DCYF indicate significant cuts to early learning funds. The board will need to explore local options for preschool access in the coming year.
- ☐ **Modular Buildings:** Construction is complete pending final inspections and paperwork. Once the affidavit of wages is filed and approved, we will release the final retainage (\$37,126). Remaining funds total \$142,031, which are earmarked exclusively for playground upgrades per grant terms.
- ☐ **HVAC Modernization:** Work has begun under the Small District Modernization Grant. Crews are working from 5 AM to 3 PM, including weekends, with plans to move classroom furniture starting June 14.
- ☐ **Mid-Columbia Medical Services:** Provided fresh produce on May 19 and plans to return July 27 for free student sports physicals. Lyle students will also be eligible.
- ☐ **Safety Drills & Trainings:**
 - Fire drill held May 16 in superintendent's absence.
 - "Stop the Bleed" training and E3 training conducted on May 21. Appreciation extended to Klickitat County Emergency Management for providing trainers.
 - ☐ **Student Safety & Threat Assessment:** Increase in threats among elementary students noted. Reunification planning will be a priority for next year.
 - ☐ **School Safety Summit:** Superintendent and Mr. Cooper will attend the August 4 School Safety Summit at Camas High School.
 - ☐ **Firearms Qualification:** Superintendent and Mr. Cooper will complete third annual qualification on June 19, with the next scheduled for August 18.
 - ☐ **Cell Phone Policy:** A committee led by Mr. Cameron is working on a new cell phone policy for rollout next school year.
 - ☐ **Controlled Entrances:** Ongoing discussion and planning.
 - ☐ **Policy Updates:** A list of policies for upcoming first and second readings is included in the packet. No immediate board action required at this time.
- Principal Report
 - ☐ **Track Season:** Track has concluded for the year. Two Lyle students qualified for the state meet, which takes place this week. Meets were held on April 23 (White Salmon), April 25-26 (Trout Lake), May 2-3 (South Wasco), May 6

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(Pikleton), May 8 (Pikleton & Sherman County), and May 13 & 15 (various locations). District track occurred at South Wasco.

☐ **Cultural Event – April 24:** We hosted a well-attended cultural event featuring frybread tacos and several hands-on stations, including basket weaving, jewelry making, and fishing pole holders.

☐ **Wishram Pride Day – April 25:** Students and staff participated in a successful school and community cleanup day.

☐ **Japanese Internment Presentation – April 28:** Students attended a moving presentation on Japanese internment camps, which resonated deeply, especially with local historical ties.

☐ **Yakama Nation Mental Health Talk – April 29:** Staff and a few parents participated in a session focused on teen mental health and depression management.

☐ **SBAC Testing:** Testing is mostly complete. To prepare and encourage students, we offered incentives such as Rattler Bucks, snacks, free time before testing, and parent reminders. Results are pending.

☐ **Red Cross & Arts Events – May 6:** The Red Cross presented to elementary students, and additional Arts for Education programming was held.

☐ **Family Art Night – May 8:** Another successful family engagement night with a strong turnout.

☐ **Prom – May 10:** Wishram hosted a multi-school prom with students from Lyle, Glenwood, and Klickitat. The event ran smoothly with no issues reported.

☐ **School Presentations:**

- *Senior Presentations* began this week. Each graduating senior presents to the entire school as part of graduation requirements.

- *Student-led Conferences* are ongoing for underclassmen.

☐ **Discovery Center Visit – May 19:** Hosted a student-focused presentation on volcanoes.

☐ **Emergency Preparedness – May 21:** Staff participated in “Stop the Bleed” training and received three emergency kits, now located in key areas of the building.

☐ **Senior Taco Fundraiser – May 21:** The senior class fundraiser sold out. With food and supplies donated by staff and local businesses, including a \$600 donation from Native Café and over \$200 in community contributions, the event was highly successful and helped fund the senior trip.

☐ **Border Collie Demonstration:** Students enjoyed a unique educational exhibition hosted as part of the Arts for Education program.

☐ **Upcoming Events:**

- *Water Jam – May 29:* 4th and 5th grade students will attend a water education event.
- *FFA Field Trip – May 30:* K-5 students will visit Goldendale High School's nationally recognized FFA program.
- *Senior Trip:* Seniors depart Sunday for Universal Studios and the Los Angeles area, returning Thursday.
- *Graduation – June 7 at 11:00 AM:* Board attendance encouraged.
- *All-School Field Trip – June 10:* Trip to the swimming pool in The Dalles.

- **Legislative Report**

There have not been significant changes since the last update, as most bills had already passed and were awaiting the Governor's signature. The final state budget for

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the next biennium has been released, totaling **\$77.8 billion**, with **\$33.6 billion** allocated to **education**, giving a clear picture of the state's investment priorities. Key highlights include:

- **Special Education (SpEd) Funding:** Increased funding has been approved over the next four years. Additionally, the cap on special education funding has been removed, which may improve the flow of funds to Educational Service Districts (ESDs).
- **Early Learning Programs:** There is a **freeze on Transitional Kindergarten (TTK)** and early learning program expansion. In fact, some early learning slots were cut, even though there was already a shortage. This was one of the areas Governor Inslee redlined, removing more funding than the Legislature had intended.
- **Financial Literacy Education:** While **financial literacy will not be a graduation requirement until 2031**, schools are still encouraged to incorporate it into their curricula as a valuable life skill.
- **Parental Rights Bill:**
 - This bill removes the requirement for schools to **notify parents in advance** when medical services are provided at school. The intent is to protect students who may seek medical/mental support but fear repercussions at home.
 - It also **expands non-discrimination protections** to include additional classifications such as ethnicity, homelessness, immigration status, citizenship status, and neurodivergence. These build upon existing protections related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.
 - While the law has drawn mixed reactions, as a state-funded institution, the district is required to comply.
- **Other Bills:**
 - **HB 5009:** Authorizes the use of **alternative student transportation** options beyond traditional yellow school buses.
 - **College Bound Scholarship Program:** Changes reduce funding accessibility, particularly for **private colleges**, although **public college scholarships remain available** at approximately 30% of the original allocation.

The district will continue to monitor implementation guidance for these laws.

Ms. Barnhart will also be attending a **training on the Parental Rights bill** later this week for further clarification.

- Old Business (Board Action)

NONE

- **New Business (Board Action)**

- NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The board discussed the proposed purchase of new playground equipment using remaining Distressed Schools grant funds. The selected design includes six swings and is still being finalized. While a finalized quote was not yet available at the time of the meeting, the

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vendor is expected to revise the quote to include the KCDA (King County Directors' Association) cooperative purchasing discount, which may reduce the total cost. It was noted that the current estimate is close to the available remaining funds, and if any unexpected expenses arise—such as additional costs related to the modulars—the board will be consulted before any purchase is finalized. Staff, board members, and students were involved in reviewing and selecting the preferred playground design. The 4th and 5th grade class reviewed all options and voted on the design, which was well received. A motion was made and approved to move forward with the playground equipment purchase as presented, with authorization to spend up to an additional \$5,000 if necessary. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Augustus MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE EXPENSE TO REPLACE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PER THE QUOTE PLUS \$5000

***A. DUKE SECONDED
APPROVED***

- SURPLUS DESIGNATION JA MOTIONED, ADUKE SECONDED
 - SCHOOL BUS #2
Bus #2 was submitted for inspection but failed due to a malfunctioning stop paddle. Mechanics determined that the entire unit would need to be replaced. Additionally, the bus is showing signs of a failing transmission and other mechanical issues, which would likely be **cost-prohibitive to repair**, especially given that the bus has **not been in regular use for some time**.
 - FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENT
A list of outdated and unused food service items, as provided in the board packet, was reviewed. The equipment is no longer functional or practical for school use.

***J. Augustus motioned to approve designating Bus # 2 and the listed food service equipment as surplus equipment.
A. Duke seconded the motion.
Motion passed.***

- School Board Minutes (Board Action Needed)

APRIL 22, 2025 BOARD MEETING

***A. DUKE motioned to approve the 4/22/2025 board meeting minutes as written.
J. Augustus seconded the motion
Motion carried***

- Consent Agenda

- a. Voucher approval-review of monthly bills
- b. Budget status report
- c. Payroll

	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
GENERAL FUND		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	36651-36656	\$ 5,962.15
	36674-36699	\$ 62,929.51
		<u>\$ 5,962.15</u>
PAYROLL	36657-36662	\$ 1,922.94
PAYROLL VENDORS	36663-36673	\$ 34,466.67

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PAYROLL FUNDS XFER		\$	135,639.10
	TOTAL PAYROLL	\$	<u>172,028.71</u>

ASB FUNS

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	2223-2237	\$	1,036.53
		\$	<u>1,036.53</u>

CAPITAL PROJECTS

517	\$	<u>228,169.07</u>
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TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE FUND

FUND BALANCE		% of year	% of Budget SPENT
GENERAL FUND	\$ 806,916.46	75%	75.81%
ASB FUND	\$ 21,952.22		30.28%
CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$ 93,062.40		17.79%
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 57,822.77		0.00%
TRUST FUND		N/A	N/A

J. Augustus motioned to approve the consent agenda in its entirety

A. DUKE SECONDED THE MOTION

Motion PASSED

• **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

15 MINUTES - To discuss personnel matters related to the performance of a public employee.

START TIME 6:05PM

END TIME: 6:19pm

No actions taken or decision made during the executive session.

• **Accolades**

J. Augustus congratulated T. Churchwell and B. Cameron for making it through their first year as the admin team.

• **Adjournment**

6:22pm

Tye Churchwell

Tye Churchwell, Board Secretary

CLC R

Signer ID: DEPJI6Y715...

Board Chair or Designee